

D R A F T
25 January 1977

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BOOK DISPATCH

TO: All Area Chiefs, SCOs

1. Over a period of many years, unprotected administrative voice radio networks have been established with DDO funds at most Stations and Bases. Initially these nets were established to compensate for the inadequacies of local telephone systems, to promote efficiency, or to provide local communications during emergencies. More recently, these nets have received increased attention as a tool in counterterrorist plans.

2. We have coined the term UTILITY NETWORK to differentiate these unprotected nets from cover organization, surveillance, and covert links. A given net may be comprised of one or more of the following: base station; repeater; mobile units, portable units; handheld units; encoders, decoders; power supplies; battery chargers; antennas; monitors; paging receivers; supporting hardware; and in some cases test equipment. The equipment is normally channeled to provide one frequency for station use and another channel [redacted]

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Statistics on UTILITY NET installations are incomplete but a recent study indicated that well over 1000 transceiver units of various manufacture are in the field, a large percentage of which, because of their age, will soon be unsupportable.

3. [redacted] on equipment selection, radio frequency assignments, and any [redacted] aspects of such equipment.

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Assistance is rendered in preparation of requisitions and incoming shipments from the vendors and T&I'd at our depot. Invariably the Area and field communications officer are involved with installation, some maintenance, user training, battery management, and testing.

4. The need to replace large numbers of this equipment in the near term provides an opportunity to recommend better management techniques and equipment standardization. These actions should reduce acquisition and ongoing support costs, improve flexibility and in most cases provide [] personnel with the types of equipment used by their cover organization. Toward this end the following [] policy will apply:

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a. [] will be encouraged to obtain unprotected voice equipment from the cover organization as a normal support item under counterterrorist program or other criteria. Funds may be transferred to the cover organization for this purpose when local criteria for provision of such equipment are not fulfilled. Ongoing maintenance will be performed by cover organization contractors or technicians.

b. If there is a reason to avoid using cover channels for equipment procurement (such as special channeling requirements), [] will be advised to purchase the same type of equipment in use or planned for use by the cover organization.

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Where possible, arrangements should be made for U.S. Nationals of the cover organization to handle ongoing maintenance.

c. Spares should be provided for each net.

d. Where the cover organization cannot provide maintenance of [redacted] owned equipment minor maintenance will be performed by [redacted] personnel, on a time available basis. [redacted] owned equipment

requiring more complex maintenance should be returned to Headquarters in [redacted] channels specifically indicating that the item is for a UTILITY NET.

Maintenance will be carried out on a contract basis.

[redacted] will be encouraged to fund enough units to operate the repair and return program and cover costs of contract maintenance.

e. [redacted] will establish and maintain records on [redacted] UTILITY NET equipment using a computer program similar to [redacted]. This information will serve to identify [redacted] total usage of such equipment and provide a base for modernization planning, frequency management, diversion of surplus resources, and the establishment of spare levels.

f. Standard UTILITY NET equipment will be placed in Allocation 21 stocks, (vice Allocation 26),

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with OC-O/COD as the cognizant technical office.

5. We have outlined above an evolutionary program intended to deal with utility net support over the next several years. During this period we anticipate that the requirement for unprotected equipment will gradually decline in favor of secure voice equipment. Please adhere to this guidance in your discussions with field [] personnel.

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COORDINATION:

DDO/P&C

Date

OC-E

Date

DDA/OS

Date